

The Old Hunt House,
Racine, Wisconsin.

Racine Co.

HABS No. 28-1.

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Photographs
Written Historical and Descriptive Data.
District No. 28.

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASUREMENT, DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey.
Alexander C. Guth, District Officer.
1249 N. Franklin Place, Milwaukee, Wis.

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OLD HUNT HOUSE
1274 Main Street, Racine
Racine County
Wisconsin

Owner: Not given.

Date of Erection: Early 1840's.

Architect and Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Two.

Materials of Construction: Wood.

Other Existing Records: See text.

Additional Data: See following pages.

OLD HUNT HOUSE

This house is situated at 1274 Main Street in the city of Racine, Wisconsin. From early day settlers it has been learned that the house was built in the early 40's. It was moved two times before it was finally placed in its present location. Some additions were made to it for each time it was moved which fortunately have not changed the house in any radical manner. From reliable sources it has also been learned that the windows, sash and doors for the building were built in Buffalo and shipped by boat to Racine. Undoubtedly the beautiful metal grille in the tympanum of the west pediment also came from Buffalo.

It almost seems beyond belief that a house of this character should have been built at such an early date without the guiding spirit of an architect.

The house has the most majestic proportions. The motives are all well thought out and the details carefully executed. Wherever possible the mouldings are undercut. One is lead to the belief that the one who built this house had access to a work on architecture like Ascher Benjamin's book, As a product of a great Greek Revival period it certainly holds its own with any example found in Ohio and some of the more eastern states where this type of architecture more generally prevails. There are two other houses besides this one in the city of Racine which can definitely be classed as of the

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Greek Revival period. Each of these is as different from the other as can be. This Hunt House has Ionic columns, one of the other houses has typical Doric columns. Whether or not the same individual is responsible for all of these houses is a matter of conjecture. Nevertheless all the houses are outstanding examples of purity in detail and design.

The houses are all occupied and in a splendid state of preservation.

William C. Smith
District Officer.

Reviewed by H.C. Foreman 1936.